

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1, 5, 8, 21 and 22 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 2-4, 9-11, 13-15, 17 and 18 as follows.

Claim 1. (Cancelled).

2. (Amended) ~~The method according to claim 1,~~ An ink-jet printing method of printing on a printing medium by discharging the ink from a printhead constituted by arraying a plurality of printing nozzle arrays each formed by a plurality of printing nozzles for discharging ink, comprising:

a generation step of generating printing data to be printed by each of at least first and second adjacent printing nozzle arrays out of the plurality of printing nozzle arrays on the basis of tone information of image data to be printed; and

a printing step of printing by discharging ink to a pixel of the printing medium from the first and second printing nozzle arrays on the basis of the printing data generated in the generation step,

wherein in the generation step, printing data corresponding to each of the first and second printing nozzle arrays is generated in a range in which a sum of the number of dots to be printed by the first printing nozzle array and the number of dots to be printed by the second printing nozzle array does not exceed a predetermined number, and

wherein the predetermined number includes a maximum number of printing dots with which influence of an air flow generated along with ink discharge from the first and second printing nozzle arrays is admissible.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein the first and second printing nozzle arrays are arranged via a common ink chamber.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein in the generation step, printing data corresponding to each of the first and second printing nozzle arrays is so generated as to relatively decrease the number of printing dots by the second printing nozzle array as the number of printing dots by the first printing nozzle array relatively increases.

Claim 5. (Cancelled).

6. (Original) An ink-jet printing method of printing on a printing medium by discharging ink from a printhead constituted by arraying a plurality of printing nozzle arrays each formed by a plurality of printing nozzles for discharging ink, comprising:

a generation step of generating printing data to be printed by each of at least first and second adjacent printing nozzle arrays out of the plurality of printing nozzle arrays;  
and

a printing step of printing by discharging ink to a predetermined region of the printing medium from the first and second printing nozzle arrays on the basis of the printing data generated in the generation step,

wherein in the generation step, printing data to be printed in the predetermined region by each of the first and second printing nozzle arrays is generated in a range in which influence of an air flow generated along with ink discharge from the first and second printing nozzle arrays is admissible.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the admissible range includes a range in which a shift amount from an ideal landing position of a dot is less than half of a dot diameter regardless of the influence of an air flow.

Claim 8. (Cancelled).

9. (Amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 8;~~ An ink-jet printing apparatus which prints on a printing medium by discharging ink from a printhead constituted by arraying a plurality of ink discharge printing nozzle arrays, comprising:

generation means for generating printing data to be printed by each of at least first and second adjacent printing nozzle arrays out of the plurality of printing nozzle arrays on the basis of tone information of image data to be printed; and

control means for controlling printing by the first and second printing nozzle arrays on the basis of the printing data generated by said generation means,

wherein said generation means generates printing data corresponding to each of the first and second printing nozzle arrays in a range in which a sum of the number of dots to be printed by the first printing nozzle array and the number of dots to be printed by the second printing nozzle array does not exceed a predetermined number, and

wherein the predetermined number includes a maximum number of printing dots with which influence of an air flow generated along with ink discharge from the first and second printing nozzle arrays is admissible.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[8]] 9, wherein the first and second printing nozzle arrays are arranged via a common ink chamber.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[8]] 9, wherein a first ink amount discharged from the first printing nozzle array by one discharge is different from a second ink amount discharged from the second printing nozzle array by one discharge.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the first ink amount discharged from the first printing nozzle array by one discharge is larger than the second ink amount discharged from the second printing nozzle array by one discharge.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[8]] 9, wherein a first printing ratio by the first printing nozzle array is higher than a second printing ratio by the second printing nozzle array.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[8]] 9, wherein said generation means independently generates printing data corresponding to the first and second printing nozzle arrays.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[8]] 2, wherein index processing of converting one printing data generated on the basis of the image data to be printed into printing data for the plurality of printing nozzle arrays is performed.

16. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the first and second printing ratios are set different from each other in each printing mode.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[8]] 2, wherein the first and second printing nozzle arrays discharge the same type of ink.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[8]] 2, wherein the first and second printing nozzle arrays discharge different types of inks.

19. (Original) An ink-jet printing apparatus which prints on a printing medium by discharging ink from a printhead constituted by arraying a plurality of printing nozzle arrays each formed by a plurality of printing nozzles for discharging ink, comprising:

generation means for generating printing data to be printed by each of at least first and second adjacent printing nozzle arrays out of the plurality of printing nozzle arrays;  
and

printing control means for printing by discharging ink to a predetermined region of the printing medium from the first and second printing nozzle arrays on the basis of the printing data generated by said generation means,

wherein said generation means generates printing data to be printed in the predetermined region by each of the first and second printing nozzle arrays in a range in which influence of an air flow generated along with ink discharge from the first and second printing nozzle arrays is admissible.

20. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the admissible range includes a range in which a shift amount from an ideal landing position of a dot is less than half of a dot diameter regardless of the influence of an air flow.

Claims 21 and 22. (Cancelled).